

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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The Court House of Eugene's Civic Center

You have probably read about plans to build a new county court house in Eugene and incorporate the new building into a civic center for the town. If consummated the plan would involve several blocks of the most expensive property in Eugene, but backers say plenty of parking space would be provided around the new county structure, a feature now sadly lacking in the present setup.

We do not remember just how it came about, but as we recall a committee was appointed to make recommendations as to location of the new court house and when it was built. Among the committee members appointed was Floyd Githens, representing this section of the county. Perhaps we are a little behind the times, but so far as we know a definite recommendation was never made and passed on unless it was made in our absence. At any rate we would be inclined to accept the recommendation of the committee member from this section since we believe that he has our interest at heart and would not be swayed by any high-powered propaganda in favor of the civic center. To the best of our recollection the plan did not have the wholehearted approval of the committee.

The proponents of the measure say the new court house would not cost anything because there is \$750,000 money from the O. & C. lands to pay for the building. We do not agree with this theory. The O. & C. money is public money and could be used for other things such as offsetting the present high tax rate, but it is not a gift in this sense. Nobody denies the need of a new court house. The question is deciding where to put it.

If the court house stays in Eugene, the city ought to have a financial investment in the building or grounds because such an institution is worth something to the city. If it's not, we would be most happy to see it come to Cottage Grove, or else form Nesbit county and build one of our own, which would be about as cheap on the local taxpayers, if the county would give us our share of the O. & C. money. The first thing therefore, is for the people of Eugene and the county court to agree on where the court house is to be located, and the kind of building to be built. No agreement has been reached in this respect to our knowledge. Until this happens, we will just have to do with the old court house.

Half Century Sees Progress Speeded Up

Some people reflect old age by living in the past. None of us will find it convenient to die when the time comes and yet if you are 50 years old you have witnessed the period of the greatest material progress in the known history of the world. If you would care to pause at the beginning of 1956 you might reflect that the electric light is just a little over a half century old, the successful automobile has not reached the age of 50. Neither has the wonder drugs, the modern medical care, and like the automobile, the flying machine did not much more than come of age in the 50-year period. Radio is an outgrowth of wireless telegraphy and television is the child of radio, all under 50 years of age. Moving pictures are not much past the half century mark and talking pictures about 30 years old.

In 15 years we have passed the atomic age and are in the age of the hydrogen bomb. Material progress may even be more rapid in the next 50 years, but that sort of progress is hard to realize with our limited knowledge. In comparing 50 years with about 6,000 years of known history and several thousand years before this, the brief period equals about a second in history.

What brought about these thoughts? The other night when the snow storm had put our electricity on the blink, we sat by candle-light and reflected just how dependent modern man is on the modern day conveniences and how short the time had been since man was using the candle to light with and the fire-place to heat with and was wholly unacquainted with the convenience of running water in the house. And the time had not been very long as history goes.

After all there are a few people living among us who know how to rough it, that is, live like our ancestors, but there we sat pretty helpless. There was no electricity, there was no furnace heat and the house was cold except for the fire-place. The candle might have been romantic in its day but it was a poor substitute for the modern electric light and reading was out. We might have turned on the radio for entertainment, except the radio was powered by electricity and we did not dare get thirsty, because it would have meant a trip to the creek through the snow because our water system was off on account of the electric pump. All the worries brought about by the crisis did not center on the immediate future for we wondered what in the heck to eat for breakfast since the only cook stove we had was electric.

We did not have to worry long, however, because we went to bed, threw an extra blanket on the bed, replacing the electric blanket, and got up the next morning when the electricity came on and lived happily ever after.

The Disappearing Wood Pile

The wood pile is disappearing and wood, known as the poor man's fuel since the settlement of the Willamette valley, may soon largely disappear, except for the fire place. We read with some interest the other day of the announcement of a fuel dealer, who said he could no longer obtain green wood, since the mill that previously furnished him this fuel was utilizing the green wood into chips. This announcement may have had a ring of sadness to the old timers, yet it spells progress, because greater utilization of wood means a great payroll.

In the course of time, there may be little or no wood available from the mill and only fire place wood cut from the forests. In the past 10 years good timber has become increasingly hard to get and the small mill, which was the backbone of the northwest economy for the past century is also passing from the picture. Only the best timber was cut, all other went into the burn pile or was sold for wood. The little mill has neither the capital nor the equipment to convert the waste wood into a salable product.

Just the other day we heard a small mill operator say he could no longer operate his mill with a profit. The high price of stumpage plus the high cost of labor has put him out of business.

Office Equipment and Supplies, Letterheads, Business Forms
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Letter From Washington

(Editor's Note: With this issue we are starting publication of "Letter From Washington," by Harris Ellsworth, representative from the 4th congressional district, which we have found helpful in keeping up with the current happenings of congress. Such letters are usually reprinted. So far as we have found these letters are non-political. We reserve the right to delete materials appearing to be on the political border line.)

The newspaper situation is rather critical at the present time, which has prompted papers on the spot so far as publication of stories of any length is concerned. Materials from other Oregon representatives in congress will be published from time to time as they are considered newsworthy, however, we feel that our representative in congress is our closest contact with Washington and hence of more interest. The following letter from Mr. Ellsworth explains his position.

by Harris Ellsworth
Here is the first of my weekly "Letter From Washington" series for the 1956 session of congress. As you know, I have been sending such a letter to the newspapers in our Fourth Congressional district since I came to congress.

Since our two senators are now sending weekly "letters" not just to newspapers but to large general mailing lists throughout the state, I think I should explain to you that my letter differs from these mailings in several respects.

(1) Less than 150 copies of my letter are mimeographed each week. It is intended for publication. Its circulation from me is limited to the newspapers and radio stations in the Fourth district and the Portland dailies. Readers of the Cottage Grove Sentinel see it only through its columns. If a broader mailing is made, as may be done not more than three times this year, it will be sent after the publication release date.

(2) The title "Letter From Washington" means what it says. It is not a political "pull sheet" sent every week in the year. I write it from HERE only while Congress is in session.

(3) Having had some experience at an editorial desk, I try to keep my letter both factual and newsworthy and hold down political emphasis. However, it is a letter of comment and opinion as well as news. I believe the people of the district are entitled to know what I think about issues and problems that confront us here, so I endeavor in this way to keep them informed about my activities and what goes on in congress.

Most of the newspapers in our congressional district print the "Letter From Washington." I hope they will continue to do so because I think it is in the interest of better government for people to know what their Representative in Congress is doing.

Right now no one seems to have any clear cut ideas as to what is going to be taken up on the floor of the house as first order of legislative business. Held over from last year was a Rule making in order the consideration of the Upper Colorado project. Otherwise nothing is ready for floor debate other than such bills as might be handled by unanimous consent. I have heard that the committee may make some revisions in the Upper Colorado bill so if that is true the present program is indeed a blank. Meanwhile the chairman of the committee told me that he has no meeting of that committee planned for the immediate future. Bills are cleared by the rules committee before they get to the floor.

The most discussed subject at present is the flood disaster problem. Not only have we recently suffered unprecedented damage from floods in Oregon and California but since congress recessed last summer floods have ravaged New England and the North Atlantic states. Of a total of 43 bills and resolutions introduced the first day of this session, 30 of them had to do with the flood problem. The big question is: How can the federal government act most quickly and efficiently to help the present disaster areas and next to do more to diminish flood disaster in the future? The bills thus far introduced divide about equally between immediate aid and future protection.

The most constructive idea for immediate action is to increase the disaster loan authorization for the Small Business Administration. I, along with several other members, have introduced for that purpose a bill. We do not propose to increase the total loan authorization of \$500 million authorized for loans in disaster areas. Without this change in the law only \$445,000 remains in the revolving fund from previous authorizations for such loan relief in the 43 California and 9 Oregon counties which have been declared disaster areas. Loans totaling \$28 million have been made by SBA in the northeastern area following the disaster there last year.

I understand from conference with house leaders that this legislation will be speeded. In fact the Small Business Administration is anticipating its enactment and is already proceeding to open emergency disaster loan offices in Southern Oregon and in California. The Oregon offices will probably be located in Coos Bay, Grants Pass and Eugene. The SBA has already designated Lane, Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Coos and Curry counties disaster areas.

The purpose of the disaster loan program is to restore the victims' property as nearly as possible to pre-disaster status, although some improvement may result by using new materials. The proceeds of disaster loans may be used for repair or replacement of the damaged property, including the replacement of damaged inventory.

Loans may be made to home owners to help repair or replace their homes, or to businesses, including corporations or partnerships, that have suffered property loss. Churches, charitable institutions and other non-profit organizations are also eligible. Sam Baldoek, Oregon's highway engineer, has been in Washington several days conferring with legislative leaders on a compromise draft for a new highway construction bill. Baldoek is a national leader in highway matters. I understand from him that every effort is being made to get early action on President Eisenhower's highway program which bogged down at the end of the last session of congress. As the President noted out in his "State of the Union" message to congress: "Twelve months have now passed in which we have

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STOLEN: Croton wrist watch from boys' dressing at C.G. High school gym. Reward for return to Sentinel. 22-1tp
FOUND: Full set false teeth. Call B&H Feed Store. 22-1tc

COMPOUNDING
The NEWS
By Phyl Varley

Washington reporters may mutter about the traditional practice in high places of granting "off the record" interviews. These little discussions where an official doesn't want his words repeated. To a reporter that's like washing your hands with your gloves on and it's been a reporter's complaint ever since Plutarch tried to keep up with the private doings of classical gods and goddesses.

But reporters in Detroit have had a real complaint, even during the newsworthy month of December—no newspapers. That's like going around blindfolded and with cotton in your ears!

Churches in Detroit reported a big boost in attendance during the newspaper strike. Seems that when the old man groped for his Sunday paper and couldn't find it, he figured the next best thing was to go to church. That may not be the best reason for going, but the result is good! Results count, and you can be sure of the results you expect from your doctor's prescription when you bring it to your Rexall pharmacist... a specialist in accurate prescription service. Call or come in to

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fallen further behind in road construction needed for personal safety, the city prosperity and the national security of the American people. During the year over 38,000 persons lost their lives in highway accidents, while the fearful toll of injuries and property damage has gone on unabated." Congress certainly cannot longer ignore the overwhelming demand of the American people for an advanced highway improvement program.

City Council

(Continued from page 1)
plained about a brush pile across the street, termed a hideout for rats, and this was referred to the street committee.

South Lane Fire District requested use of the council chambers on the first Tuesday of each month. This was granted provided the arrangements did not interfere with prior commitments for use of the room.

The council agreed that hereafter the chief officer will be the current chief of staff at Cottage Grove Hospital. Since the chief of staff is named to serve for one year, and the health officer's term would have to be renewed at the end of the first six-month term.

A report was made on a meeting which failed to take place between a representative of the Southern Pacific Co., Byron Houck, master of the Toverna Grace, and Mayor Jess Hill regarding better signals at the Main Street crossing of the railroad company's tracks. Because of the bad weather the railroad representative was unable to keep the engagement. Earlier letters urging an improved signal system were written by the grantee, the Chamber of Commerce and the council. The council also had called attention to the crossing on Sixth Street near Quincy Ave.

Regarding an application for additional highway department funds, the city was informed that "a city receiving any funds in any calendar year may not be eligible for receiving funds in the following calendar year." The council voted to follow up on this by making application for help a year hence.

Mrs. R. L. Sederger presented a request for courtesy parking space in the downtown area in her capacity as Red Cross chairman in this area. Councilman DeJarnet suggested granting of a sticker for use on Mrs. Sederger's car when parked at any parking meter on Red Cross business. The sticker was granted on condition that it be worked out at discretion of the police department.

H. W. Satterwhite's cash bid of \$577.50 for the 90-foot span of bridge and sidewalk recently planned by the new Main street bridge was accepted by unanimous vote.

An ordinance giving a 10-year franchise to Howard Langston for a TV antenna on the west side of Cottage Grove was passed, subject to the completion of signing the agreement.

Each member of the council was instructed to study carefully before the next meeting a proposed ordinance for setting new water rates and new installation fees. Aimed at equalizing installations and making other regulations and fees uniform, this proposed ordinance has been prepared by Lee Colinet, city engineer, over a period of some time.

Coner, Fire Chief Shipley and Police Chief Ed Jones were instructed to prepare police and fire department budgets for presentation at the meeting in March.

Mayor Hill made the suggestion that future attention might be

Better Hunting Made by Oregon Improvement Crews

Without food, water, and shelter no bird or animal can survive. Working on this premise, habitat improvement crews of the Oregon Game Commission had a busy year during 1955 in providing or improving homes for wildlife to make better hunting for Oregon citizens.

During the year, 66 agreements, making a total of 208, were signed with private landowners for wildlife habitat improvement projects. Development projects were carried out on 45 farms in the Willamette valley and on 80 farms in the Columbia basin. Development sites on these farms averaged about three acres per site.

Sixty-four of the 66 farm owners joined the program this year to allow hunting by permission on the 47,313 acres of land they control. More than 200,000 acres of land are open to such hunting according to the agreements.

In the northwest region, an estimated 10.3 miles of multiflora rose, using 40,000 seedlings, were planted for hedges to provide escape cover for upland game birds. Approximately 315 acres were planted in sudan grass, rice grass, amber cane, and other commercial crops for wildlife use. Twenty concrete cistern type water developments or "guzzlers" were constructed to provide watering places for game and other animals.

Martha A Bittinger

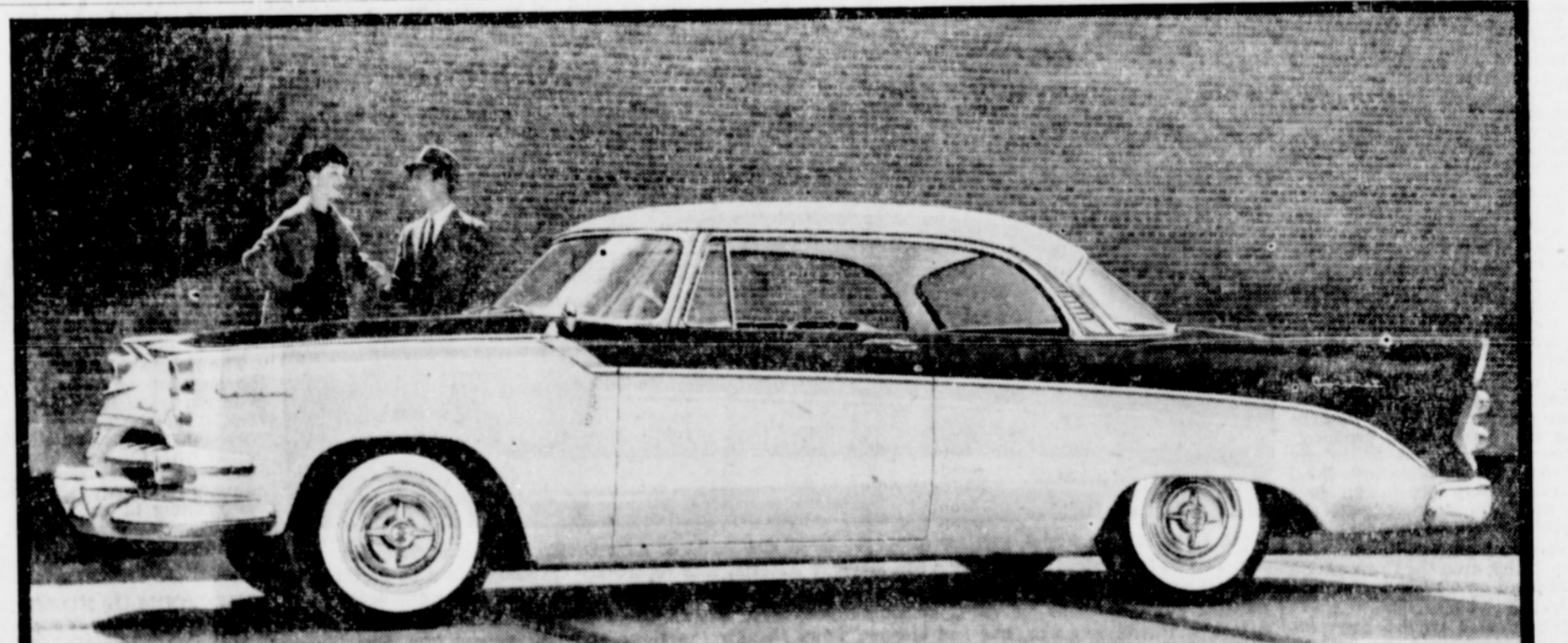
Mrs. Martha Ann Bittinger, 87, passed away January 8 at the Northwestern Christian Church Home at Beaverton, where she had been a resident for the past 13 years. Prior to that she had lived in the Silk Creek community west of Cottage Grove for 40 years before going to the church home in 1942.

Mrs. Bittinger was born May 13, 1868, at Hillsboro. She was married in 1898 to Wallace G. Bittinger, who preceded her in death in 1928. She was a member of the Christian Church.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 11, at 11 a.m. from Mills Chapel, Mr. Milan officiating. Interment was in IOOF cemetery.

A niece, Mrs. J. C. Hill, of Medical Lake, Wash., and a nephew, Dale Pedigo, of Imola, Calif., were here to attend the funeral of their aunt.

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